Navigation Project, reportedly under construction, is in violation of the Indus Waters Treaty 1960 and have urged immediate cessation of all construction work on the project. India has informed Pakistan that the Project is purely a control structure meant for improving the navigability of the Jhelum River merely by the regulation of the depletion of the natural storage already available in the Wular Lake. This structure will neither contribute to raising the water level in the Wular Lake nor involve any consumptive use of the waters. No provisions of the Treaty are, therefore, violated.

Setting up of National Integration-cum-Human Rights Commission

@1163. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Minorities Commission Chairman, Mr. Justice M. H. Beg, had recommended setting up of a National Integration-cum-Human Rights Commission to make the Commission work more effectively; and

(b) if so, when the recommendation was received by Government and what action has been taken so far in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) The Minorities Commission in their Fourth Annual Report for the period 1-1-81 to 31-3-82 had recommended *inter alia* setting up of a National Integration-cum-Human Rights Commission. The Report was laid on the table of the Rajya Sabha on 10-5-1984 with Action Taken Memorandum. As already stated in the Action Taken Memorandum with reference to the recommendation the Government are of the view that the existing constitutional framework provides for adequate safeguards for ensuring the freedom of the individual and orderly progress of the society.

Subsidy to Co-operative Societies for P. D S.

1164. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what amount has been given as subsidy to the Co-operative Societies in different States and Union Territories to undertake distribution of essential commodities and what is the soft loan provided to different states and Union Territories in this connection during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that the societies have not utilised the subsidy for the benefit of the consumers;

(c) whether Government give priority for the Distribution of essential commodities through the Co-operatives and whether it is a fact that individuals are being preferred than the Co-operatives; and

(d) how many Co-operative Societies and individuals are appointed as wholesale dealers in Orissa in the State level, district level and Primary level for distribution of essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the development of consumers' cooperatives in urban areas, Government of India provides financial assistance through State Govts., U. T. Adminstratons to the consumers' cooperatives to enable them to supply consumer goods to the public at resonable rates. In the rural areas, the primary agricultural credit societies are provided margin

@Previously Unstarred Question 680 transferred from the 3rd March, 1987.

money assistance under another Centrally Sponsored Scheme, to enable them to raise adequate working capital for undertaking distribution of consumer articles. The subsidy provided under the scheme is only for strengthening the consumer cooperative structure. Many of the cooperatives distribute essential commodities under the Public Distribution System. Statements showing the amount provided to the States|UT administrations under the two Centrally Sponsored Schemes during the last three years (1983-84 to 1985-86) are given in Annxure. [*See* Appendix CXLI, Annexure No. 49.]

(c) The Government of India emphasised that where new Fair Price Shops are to be opened, the State Governments should consider encouraging the cooperatives to open the outlets, particularly in rural areas. The actual allotment of Fair Price Shops, however, is made by the State Governments|U.T. Administrations which are primarily responsible for the organisation and administration of the public distribution system in their respective areas.

(d) The information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House.

NABARD credit facilities to Co-operative Banks in Orissa

1165. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NABRAD has stopped giving credit facilities to the Co-operative Banks in Orissa; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): (a) and (b) The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) stopped refinance assistance to Orissa State Cooperative Bank in August, 1986 under schematic lending and fresh drawals under short term and medium term agricultural credit limits since the state cooperative bank defaulted to NABARD in repayment of its dues. Even then, NABARD permitted drawals against short term credit limits sanctioned, till 15-11-86 to such of the Central Cooperative Banks which were not in default. The restriction was lifted from 5-1-87 when the State Cooperative Bank cleared its dues to NABARD on short term credit limits. However, the State Cooperative Bank continues to be a defauter in respect of schematic lending and hence no refinance is being provided for the purpose. For similar reasons of default the Orissa State Coopeartive Land Development Bank has been provided partial refinance from 10-11-86 on long term loans.

Problem of Fishermen due to use of Multipurpose Fishing Boats

1166. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large imported multipurpose fishing boats from Australia have caused havoc recently by use of unauthorised nets for shrimp fishing;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to stop this menace and illegal activity; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons for special treatment of large boats, which have affected our small fishermen off the East Coast?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) There is no report to indicate that multipurpose fishing vessels recently imported from Australia by various Indian companies have caused any havoc by use of any unauthorised nets for shrimp fishing.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No special treatment is given to large boats. Since large boats would operate in deep sea areas beyond the areas of operation of small fishermen, they will